## Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Youth and Young Adult Provisions

# Overview of Today's Webinar

- Summary of Provisions
- Practice Tips for Those Working with Foster Youth and Young Adults
- Q&A

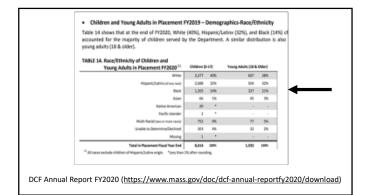
Check out our website for all the resources discussed in this presentation at <u>https://www.publiccounsel.net/cafl/cafl-news/covid-19-news-and-resources/.</u>

## Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law No: 116-260)

- Provisions related to current and former foster youth (pages 701-711)
- Goal to support these youth and young adults 14-27 during the pandemic
- Increases funds to DCF to support youth and young adults
- Relaxes/expands eligibility for support

#### Who Might Benefit from This Law?

- Youth currently in DCF custody 14 or older (via a CRA or C&P)
- Young adults 18 to 22 who "signed back in" to DCF care
- Young adults who left DCF care at 18 or older and have not yet turned 27
- Youth who were in foster care and were subject of guardianship or adoption that was finalized after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday



## Changes in Three Major Areas

- Extended Care/Re-Entry
- Financial Support and Services Through the Chafee Program
- Financial Support through the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

## Extended Care – Pre-COVID

- State law requires DCF to continue responsibility of foster youth until age 22. G.L. c. 119, sec. 21 and 23(f)
- Federal law provides funding to states until age 21 under Title IV-E.
- Young adult must be attending school or working at least 80 hours per month. G.L. c. 119, sec. 23(f); 42 USC § 675(8)(B)(iv)42 USC
- DCF must develop transition plan 90 days before young adult leaves DCF care. G.L. c. 119, sec. 23(f); 42 USC § 675(5)(H)

#### Extended Care/Re-Entry under New Law

- Waives school/work requirements if unable to meet due to pandemic
- Prohibits states from discharging young adults due to age (turning 21)
- Requires states to notify young adults who were discharged due to age, and offer to let them return to care
- Effective only until September 30, 2021

## Chafee Services Pre-Covid

- Federal funding to states to support current and former foster youth and young adults to transition to adulthood
- DCF administers a variety of different programs with different eligibility criteria
- Ages 14 to 23 under state law (federal law until 26)

#### Chafee Services Under New Law

- Increase in funding to states to spend before 9/30/21
- Eligibility for new funding up to age 27

## How DCF Might Spend Additional Chafee \$

- Direct Cash Assistance
- Discharge Support Services
- Housing assistance (through vouchers or other programs)
- Life Skills Support
- Transportation (driver's ed, insurance, purchase car)
- Outreach Workers

## Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program

- Provides grants for tuition and other costs of attending post secondary education
- Eligible populations include:
  - Young adults who remain in care after age 18
  - Left foster care at age 18 or older
  - Left foster to adoption or guardianship after age 16

# Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program under New Law

- Increases funding to states for ETV Program
- Eligibility for new funding increased from age 26 to age 27
- Maximum grant size increased from \$4,000-\$12,000 per person
- Waiver of enrollment and satisfactory academic progress requirements if unable to meet them because of COVID.
- These provisions effective through 9/30/22.